United Nations A/C.1/72/L.43

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
12 October 2017

Original: English

Seventy-second session
First Committee
Agenda item 99 (u)
General and complete disarmament: problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus

Albania, Angola, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland: draft resolution

Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the dangers posed by unplanned explosions at munitions sites and the diversion of materials from conventional ammunition stockpiles to the illicit market, including for the manufacture of improvised explosive devices,

Emphasizing that thousands of people have died and the livelihoods of entire communities have been disrupted as a result of accidental ammunition depot explosions and that diversion from ammunition stockpiles has contributed to the intensity and duration of armed conflict and sustained armed violence around the world,[1]

Noting that conventional weapons and their ammunition are items for which, in principle, action can be taken to improve the regulation of transfers and prevent their diversion to illicit trafficking,

Recognizing the urgency of addressing the security and safety risks emanating from ineffective stockpile management around the world,[2]

Welcoming the requirement of the Arms Trade Treaty[3] that States parties thereto establish and maintain a national control system to regulate the export of relevant ammunition and munitions,

[1] See S/2011/255.
[2] See S/2015/289.
[3] See resolution 67/234 B.

Please recycle

Taking note of the report of the Group of Experts on the problem of ammunition and explosives,[4]

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[5] and its recognition of the relevance for development of a significant reduction in illicit arms flows and of strengthened institutions for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime,

Recalling the recommendation contained in paragraph 27 of the report of the Open-ended Working Group to Negotiate an International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons,[6] namely, to address the issue of small arms and light weapons ammunition in a comprehensive manner as part of a separate process conducted within the framework of the United Nations,

Taking note of the discussions on munitions management practice in the framework of Protocol V[7] to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,[8]

Noting with satisfaction the work and measures pursued at the regional and subregional levels with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition,

Recalling its decision 59/515 of 3 December 2004 and its resolutions 60/74 of 8 December 2005 and 61/72 of 6 December 2006, its resolution 63/61 of 2 December 2008, by which it welcomed the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 61/72 to consider further steps to enhance cooperation with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus,[9] its resolution 64/51 of 2 December 2009, its resolution 66/42 of 2 December 2011, its resolution 68/52 of 5 December 2013 and its resolution 70/35 of 7 December 2015,

Taking note of the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts,[10] and encouraging the use, as appropriate, of the voluntary International Ammunition Technical Guidelines to improve the safety and security of ammunition storage sites,

Also taking note of the recommendations of the Group on improving knowledge resource management on technical ammunition issues within the United Nations system, and noting the subsequent establishment, within the Secretariat, of the Safer*G*uard knowledge resource management programme,[11] including its online implementation support tools,

Noting that the voluntary International Ammunition Technical Guidelines are used by national authorities and an expanding network of partners from international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in an increasing number of States to support ammunition stockpile management efforts,

---

[4] See A/54/155.
[5] Resolution 70/1.
[6] A/60/88 and Corr.2.
[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2399, No. 22495.
[8] Ibid., vol. 1342, No. 22495.
[9] A/63/182.
[10] See A/70/81.
[11] Ibid., paras. 72 and 73.

Emphasizing the need to consider integrating ammunition management measures in accordance with the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines where relevant in mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions,

Recognizing the importance of appropriate national ammunition management structures and procedures, including laws and regulations, training and doctrine, equipment and maintenance, personnel management and finances and infrastructure in order to ensure sustainability in ammunition management, and emphasizing in this regard the central role of the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building to Member States, upon their request,

1. *Encourages* all interested States to assess, on a voluntary basis, whether, in conformity with their legitimate security needs, parts of their stockpiles of conventional ammunition should be considered to be in surplus, and recognizes that the security of such stockpiles must be taken into consideration and that appropriate controls with regard to the security and safety of stockpiles of conventional ammunition are indispensable at the national level in order to eliminate the risk of explosion, pollution or diversion;

2. *Appeals* to all interested States to determine the size and nature of their surplus stockpiles of conventional ammunition, whether they represent a security risk, their means of destruction, if appropriate, and whether external assistance is needed to eliminate this risk;

3. *Encourages* States in a position to do so to assist interested States within a bilateral framework or through international or regional organizations, including through activities conducted under the umbrella of the Safer*Guard* knowledge resource management programme,[11] on a voluntary and transparent basis, in elaborating and implementing programmes to eliminate surplus stockpiles or to improve stockpile management;

4. *Encourages* all Member States to examine the possibility of developing and implementing, within a national, regional or subregional framework, measures to address accordingly the illicit trafficking related to the accumulation of such stockpiles;

5. *Continues to encourage* States to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 61/72 to consider further steps to enhance cooperation with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus;[9]

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of initiatives at the international, regional and national levels that shed light on improving the sustainable management of ammunition, including through the implementation of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, and recognizing the relevance of continued discussions and coordination in this regard;

7. *Recalls* the release of the updated version of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines in 2015 and the continued implementation of the Safer*Guard* programme for the management of conventional ammunition stockpiles, developed by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, with the full involvement of the Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts;

8. *Welcomes* the continued application of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines in the field, including the online implementation support and training materials, welcomes the availability of translations of the Guidelines in

various languages, encourages States in a position to do so to offer support to the Safer*Guard* programme in undertaking additional translations, and calls upon all United Nations agencies to make full use of the Guidelines when supporting national authorities;

9. *Encourages* the consideration of the integration of ammunition management measures, where relevant, in the mandates of peacekeeping operations, including through the training of personnel of national authorities and peacekeepers, utilizing the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines;

10. *Welcomes* the ongoing work carried out by the Safer*Guard* programme to establish its quick-response mechanism, which allows ammunition experts to be deployed rapidly to assist States, upon request, in the urgent management of ammunition stockpiles, including in the aftermath of unintended explosions of ammunition, and encourages States in a position to do so to provide technical expertise or financial support to the mechanism;

11. *Encourages* States wishing to improve their national ammunition stockpile management capacity, wishing to prevent the growth of conventional ammunition surpluses and wishing to implement wider risk mitigation to contact the Safer*Guard* programme, as well as potential national donors, regional organizations or other organizations, as appropriate;

12. *Also encourages* States, as appropriate, to consider ammunition management as an intrinsic part of their actions for achieving relevant targets of the Sustainable Development Goals related to the reduction of illicit arms flows and the prevention of violence through strengthened institutions, and to consider, where relevant, developing national, regional and subregional indicators based on this understanding;

13. *Asks* the Secretariat to assist States in this regard, upon their request, within existing resources, by developing options for such indicators, which may serve as voluntary examples for those States interested in adopting additional national, regional and subregional indicators on ammunition management;

14. *Encourages* States, where relevant, to develop voluntary national action plans on the safe and secure management of conventional ammunition, and acknowledges the utility of information-sharing and the benefit of good practices among States, as appropriate;

15. *Encourages* States to participate in open, informal consultations within the framework of the present resolution, focusing on matters of conventional ammunition management within the United Nations system and beyond and with a view to identifying urgent issues pertaining to the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus on which progress can be made and that may constitute a basis for convening a group of governmental experts;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene a group of governmental experts in 2020 on problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus, taking into account discussions in the open, informal consultations;

17. *Reiterates* its decision to address the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus in a comprehensive manner;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus".